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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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RHMFIS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: MGLB01: LEBANON MONITORING GROUP SITUATION
REPORT NO. 18

ELECTION LAW DISPUTE UNRESOLVED; TENSION WITHIN MARCH 14

¶1. (SBU) Local press report committee members have agreed to adopt the 2005 election law on county-sized districts. Embassy Beirut comments although Acting FM Mitri and DefMin Murr believe a deal on the electoral law is close, many other delegates say the discussions are completely blocked. Post adds the committee on cabinet composition has yet to meet. (Ops/Embassy Beirut telcon and e-mail, naharnet.com)

¶2. (SBU) Members of the March 14 delegation asked Future Party leader Saad Hariri to encourage his Armenian supporters to stand down on their demands for redistricting Beirut, according to Druze leader Walid Jumblatt. (Ops/Embassy Beirut e-mail)

¶3. (U) Minimize considered.
RICE